Traditionally gender specific roles on farming matters and household level decision making are highly male dominated. The patriarchal socio-culture of Nepal has immense implications on traditional farming matters and resource management (Chant & Sweetman, 2012; Honsberger, 2015; IFAD, 2000).

Push factors (low productivity due to climate change induced stresses, poverty and lack of employment) in origin and pull factors (better income and employment opportunities, access to better modern amenities and social safety) in destination influence migration decisions (Lee, 1966; Massey et al., 1998; King, 2014).

Out migration has prompted distinctive situations in rural areas impacting traditional farming systems considering gender roles and responsibilities (Gartaula et al., 2010; Maharjan, 2010).

The changing context of rural areas induced from out migration needs to be assessed and mainstreamed in order to develop relevant projects and programs which are intended to strengthen traditional farming system.

**Background**

**Methodology**

**Primary Data Collection**
- Primary information (qualitative and quantitative data) were collected using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools and household survey in 2015.
- Quantitative data were collected through a semi structured questionnaire survey, adopted probability proportion to size sampling technique.
- In total, 991 residing households were listed and a sample size of 88 was calculated using a sample size estimation formula. Calculated sample size has a 95% confidence level within the 10% margin of error.
- Qualitative data were collected thorough Focus Group Discussions (FGD), Key Informant Survey (KIS), participant observation and community transect walks.

**Secondary Data Collection**
- Secondary information from relevant publications, reports and articles were used to supplement and validate the information.

Research showed that 93% of female family members are involved in agricultural activities whereas only 61% of male members are engaged in farming matters.

Comparatively, households having influential migrants have lower area and richness of local crops indicating a direct impact on traditional farming systems and on farm conservation of local crops.

About half of the households (49%) have influential migrants (residing out of home for more than 3 months) with average of two members per households.

Female farmers’ involvement is significantly higher (46%) in migrant’s households as compared to non-migrant’s households (15%).

In the context of influential migration, significant numbers of household’s decision were made by only female members.

Male out-migration is predominant among households having family members migrants due to socio-cultural settings.

Influential out-migration has led to gender specific socio-economic changes at household level decision making and farming related matters.

Influential migration induced shift in gender specific roles both at the household level and farm level and have put female members at the frontline of farming, making them a key determinant of traditional farming system.

Farming systems greatly rely on female farmers in the context of influential or long term out-migration.

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Changed social contexts and feminization induced by outmigration needs to be recognized from formal sectors, development agencies and policy makers which are intended to work in traditional or rural farming system.

**Case Study:**

Dolakha, Nepal

Niranjan Pudasaini, Devendra Gauchan, Bishnu Dhakal, Bhuwon R. Shhapit

Local Initiatives for Biodiversity Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal; Bioversity International, Nepal Office

**Project:**

Integrating Traditional Crop Genetic Diversity into Technology: Using a Biodiversity Portfolio Approach to Buffer against Unpredictable Environmental Change in the Nepal Himalayas

**Results**

**Conclusion**

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